

POSITION DESCRIPTION

Position Title: Animal Care Volunteer

Reports To: Animal Keepers

Volunteer Coordinator



Position Summary and Requirements

Animal Care Volunteers work very closely with our Animal Keepers assisting them with daily animal care activities. Daily tasks may include, but are not limited to, maintaining and cleaning animal enclosures and den boxes, preparing and dispensing diets, creating and distributing enrichment items, assisting in data entry, and animal observations.

- Must be at least 18 years of age
- Must have a reliable means of transportation
- Must be able to commit to at least 16 hours per month (one, 4-hour shift every week)
- Must be able to work either 8:30AM-12:30PM or 1:00PM-5:00PM
- Must be able to commit to volunteer for at least 12 consecutive months
 - Or 6 months for Seasonal Animal Care

Essential Position Functions

- Ability to work independently is a must but should also be able to work cooperatively in small groups.
- Must be capable of taking direction well and pay careful attention to procedures and established protocols.
- Must be able to follow instructions and carry out given responsibilities in a safe and careful manner. This is vital to working safely around large and dangerous carnivores while avoiding injuring yourself, other team members, visitors, and the animals.
- Must be physically able to perform cleaning, feeding, changing waters, and general husbandry tasks under various weather conditions (rain, shine, snow, etc.).
- Must be able to adjust to changes in daily routines.
- Must be comfortable working with and around raw meat, as we feed a whole carcass diet to our animals and do all our own butchering on site. Our animal care team, volunteers included, are responsible for butchering whole animal donations including, but not limited to, deer, horses, cows, and sheep.

Competencies

- Teamwork – Supporting, facilitating, and participating in activities that promote team effectiveness. Demonstrating sensitivity for the feelings and needs of team members and supporting team goals.
- Communication – Effectively expressing ideas verbally and non-verbally and actively listening to individuals and groups.
- Safety - Safely handle a variety of tools and equipment both independently and under the supervision of others. Strictly follow safety procedures and established protocols.



Typical Physical Requirements

This role is our most physically demanding. Our facility is located on more than 50 acres of land in rural North Carolina. Almost 40 acres of the property is developed for the animals. Volunteers participating in Animal Care will be working in all areas of the sanctuary and will often be traveling on foot. The sanctuary is not paved, and includes gravel paths and open, uneven areas of natural terrain.

- More than normal standing (majority of each shift)
- More than normal walking, stretching, and bending
- Frequently lifting and carrying objects weighing up to 50 lbs.
- Close proximity exposure to various plants and animals in a central North Carolina climate
- Subject to bites, stings, and scrapes from native flora and insects
- Exposure to marked changes in temperature and humidity